

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 15987 020857Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 CPR-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00
TRSE-00 SY-05 L-03 A-01 /029 W
-----078629 030505Z /17
R 020825Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4057
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

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DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/SOV AND OC

BONN FOR RCO, FRANKFURT FOR FRDCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, APOU, OGEN, UR, US

SUBJECT: HANDLING OF DIPLOMATIC POUCHES

REF: (A) MOSCOW 15614 (B) MOSCOW 15775 (C) STATE 257695

1. DURING NOVEMBER 1 CALL ON USA DIVISION'S DEPUTY DIRECTOR FEDOSEYEV, ADMIN COUNSELOR AND OFFICER PRESENTED NON PAPER (TEXT IN REFTEL B) CONCERNING HANDLING OF DIPLOMATIC POUCHES. EMBOFFS REVIEWED THE PROBLEMS WE HAVE HAD WITH SOVIET CUSTOMS DURING THE LAST FEW MONTHS IN CLEARING OUR DIPLOMATIC POUCHES AND NOTED A REVIEW OF THE ARRANGEMENTS AT DULLES AND SHEREMETYEVO HAD SHOWN THAT WE HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY LESS ADVANTAGEOUS ARRANGEMENTS IN MOSCOW THAN THE SOVIETS ENJOY IN WASHINGTON.

2. FEDOSEYEV STATED THE PROTOCOL DIVISION OF MFA HAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR CUSTOMS MATTERS, BUT HE HOPED THAT WAYS COULD BE FOUND TO RESOLVE OUR PROBLEMS. ADMIN
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COUNSELOR INDICATED THAT WE WOULD ALSO BE RAISING THE MATTER WITH THE PROTOCOL DIVISION.

3. LATER AT A MEETING WITH STEPANOV, COUNSELOR, PROTOCOL DIVISION, EMBOFFS PRESENTED THE NON PAPER AND ALSO A NOTE REJECTING THE SOVIET NOTE OF OCTOBER 19, CONCERNING THE DETENTION OF OUR POUCHES IN MOSCOW CUSTOMS FROM SEPT 28

TO OCT 5 (TEXT OF NOTE IN REFTEL A). EMBOFFS REVIEWED
OUR PROBLEMS OF THE LAST TWO MONTHS IN SOME DETAIL.

4. STEPANOV PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER, BUT
INDICATED THAT WE WERE THE ONLY EMBASSY WHICH HAD COM-
PLAINED ABOUT POUCH PROBLEMS WITH SOVIET CUSTOMS. (FYI.
THE LATTER COMMENT IS NOT CORRECT-- THE CANADIANS HAVE TOLD US
INFORMALLY THAT AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS OF TRYING TO IMPROVE
THEIR POUCH PROCEDURES HERE, THEY HAD RECENTLY REVOKED THE
PERMANENT AIRPORT PASSES ISSUED TO THE SOVIETS IN
MONTREAL AND OTTAWA. END FYI.)

5. SINCE THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS A VESTED
INTEREST IN THE PRESENT DULLES AIRPORT ARRANGEMENTS, THE
DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PROVIDE A COPY OF NON PAPER TO UNDER-
LINE THE POINT.
TOON

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 02-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
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